What is claimed is:

1. A method for assigning ratings to a fund, comprising the steps of:

calculating an expected return over a time period for a sector corresponding to the fund based on financial futures corresponding to the sector,

calculating an expected range of returns for the sector based on prices of options for the futures,

calculating an expected return for the fund over a time period based on the calculated expected return for the corresponding sector, the expected range of returns for the corresponding sector, and on information specific to the fund,

assigning a rating based on the expected return for the fund;

and providing the assigned rating to a user.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said information specific to the fund includes an annual return adjustment factor equal to the difference between the annualized returns for the fund and a median return for other funds in the sector.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said information specific to the fund includes a factor for the extent to which the funds returns are below the median for that sector for a time period.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein, in the step of calculating expected annual returns for the fund, an adjustment for qualitative factors is made.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of calculating an expected annual return comprises the steps of calculating a low, and a high expected annual return.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of assigning a rating comprises assigning one of a plurality of ratings to each fund.

7. A method for predicting expected returns of a fund, comprising the steps of:

calculating an expected return over a time period for a sector corresponding to the fund based on financial futures corresponding to the sector,

calculating an expected range of returns for the sector based on prices of options for the futures,

calculating an expected annual return for the fund based on the expected annualized return for the corresponding sector, the expected range of returns for the corresponding sector, and on information specific to the fund.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said information specific to the fund includes an annual return adjustment factor equal to the difference between the annualized returns for the fund and a median return for other funds in the sector.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein said information specific to the fund includes a factor for the extent to which the funds returns are below the median for that sector for a time period.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein, in the step of calculating expected annual returns for the fund, an adjustment for qualitative factors is made.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein said step of calculating an expected annual return comprises the steps of calculating a low, and a high expected annual return.

15. A system for assigning ratings to a fund, comprising:

means for calculating an expected return over a time period for a sector corresponding to the fund based on financial futures corresponding to the sector,

means for calculating an expected range of returns for the sector based on prices of options for the futures,

means for calculating an expected return for the fund over a time period based on the calculated expected return for the corresponding sector, the expected range of returns for the corresponding sector, and on information specific to the fund,

means for assigning a rating based on the expected return for the fund; and

means for providing the assigned rating to a user.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein said information specific to the fund includes an annual return adjustment factor equal to the difference between the annualized returns for the fund and a median return for other funds in the sector.

17. The system of claim 15, wherein said information specific to the fund includes a factor for the extent to which the funds returns are below the median for that sector for a time period.

18. The system of claim 15, wherein said means for calculating expected annual returns for the fund comprises means for permitting a user to make an adjustment for qualitative factors.

19. The system of claim 15, wherein said means for calculating an expected annual return comprises means for calculating a low and a high expected annual return.

20. The system of claim 15, wherein said means for assigning a rating comprises means for assigning one of a plurality of ratings to each fund.

21. A storage medium having stored therein a plurality of instructions, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

calculating an expected return over a time period for a sector corresponding to a fund based on financial futures corresponding to the sector,

calculating an expected range of returns for the sector based on prices of options for the futures,

calculating an expected return for the fund over a time period based on the calculated expected return for the corresponding sector, the expected range of returns for the corresponding sector, and on information specific to the fund,

assigning a rating based on the expected return for the fund;

and providing the assigned rating to a user.

22.   The storage medium of claim 21, wherein said information specific to the fund includes an annual return adjustment factor equal to the difference between the annualized returns for the fund and a median return for other funds in the sector.

23.   The storage medium of claim 21, wherein said information specific to the fund includes a factor for the extent to which the funds returns are below the median for that sector for a time period.

24.   The storage medium of claim 21, wherein in the step of calculating expected annual returns for the fund, an adjustment for qualitative factors is made.

25.   The storage medium of claim 21, wherein said step of calculating an expected annual return comprises the steps of calculating a low, and a high expected annual return.